Setting up of IFZs

3040. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to give a clear thrust to farm sector reforms, Government are considering to set up Integrated Food Zones (IFZs);

(b) if so, whether Government have identified 20 zones with the highest potential across the country based on availability of raw material, approach from national highways, major rail links and availability of infrastructure like water, power and skilled manpower;

(c) whether IFZ scheme would address the loopholes of existing schemes and provided a holistic vision to overcome indistry constraints; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has proposed a new scheme of Mega Food Parks/Integrated Food Zones (IFZ) aimed at providing integrated solutions to make available comprehensive and quality infrastructural facilities with appropriate linkages. However, the government does not set up projects on its own. The concept has been proposed to Planning Commission for consultation for development of the scheme.

Development of rainfed areas

3041. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present, there are numerous projects and schemes which are being run for the development of the rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and schemes, State-wise;

(c) the budgetary outlay of these projects and schemes for the current year; and

(d) the utilization of such outlay, so far?